

Watershed Restoration Action Strategies and Unified Watershed Assessments

The Unified Watershed Assessment (UWA) program has finally taken flight this year. Past obstacles have been addressed and FY 1999 funds are now working in West Maui, Nawiliwili, and Pelekane Bay. A strategy to execute contracts for the use of Incremental 319(h) funds for UWA projects from FY 1999 through FY 2001 has been established and revised over the year. It is anticipated that the program's strategy will be revised once again with the FY 2002 grant guidance from EPA. The UWA, a cooperative approach to watershed protection requires the community to integrate their various agendas into one more focused goal. In some watersheds bringing together all the partners needed to address the UWA is a hurdle in and of itself.

A Request for Proposals was put out in October 2000 for Watershed Restoration Action Strategy (WRAS) development in Nawiliwili, Ko'olaupoko, and South Molokai. Two proposals were received for Nawiliwili, and the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) was selected as the contractor. The contract was executed in September 2001. One proposal was received for Ko'olaupoko, however, it only covered a portion of the watershed. The selection committee decided it would be beneficial to fund a WRAS for a portion of Ko'olaupoko rather than having no WRAS at

all and DOH requested the offeror to address a list of concerns from the committee. During the 2 months DOH was waiting for a response, the Kailua Bay Advisory Council (KBAC) contacted DOH voicing their intent to complete a WRAS for the entire Ko'olaupoko watershed. DOH has decided to wait for KBAC's Master Plan to be finalized, and after its review determine its acceptability as a WRAS. In South Molokai there were no proposals submitted for WRAS development. DOH under the guidance of the IPA deemed it necessary to develop a partnership plan in S. Molokai, and a plan of work for developing the WRAS. The Molokai-Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District accepted the DOH's proposal for a short scope of work that would lay the necessary foundation for any entity willing to then complete the S. Molokai WRAS.



DOH is in the process of contract negotiations with Mauna Kea SWCD to implement a watershed management plan in the Pelekane Bay watershed.

EPA has brought to the program's attention their concern with FY 1999 through FY 2001 Incremental funds not yet put into contracts. The program has since made it a priority to use these funds for restoration projects in Category I watersheds. It is anticipated the program will fund 5 new projects with the FY 1999 and FY 2000 incremental funds, and another project with FY 2001 funds. After the necessary funds are allocated for the South Molokai WRAS, incremental planning and assessment money will be targeted at WRAS development for the Category I Tier 2 Watersheds.

Assessment and Protection Plan for Nawiliwili Watershed

Contractor: University of Hawaii at Manoa, Water Resource Research Center

Project Period: 24 months

Federal Funds: \$106,080 (FY99)

Matching Funds: \$107,903

Project Purpose/Goal: To assess current pollution levels and identify sources of contamination for the Nawiliwili Watershed.

Status: The contract was sent to the University of Hawaii for execution on August 13, 2001. The estimated date for issuance of the notice to proceed is October 1, 2001.

Strategic Fences and Ungulate & Invasive Species Removal

Contractor: West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

Project Period: September 2001 through October 2003

Federal Funds: \$200,000 (FY99)

Matching Funds: \$195,000

% of Project Completed: 0

% of Funds Remaining: 100

Project Purpose/Goal: To construct strategic fencing in the West Maui watershed to protect the watershed from any further degradation from feral pigs, cattle, goats, and to a lesser extent, Axis deer.

Status: Second draft of contract was sent for review and approval to the Department of Health's Administrative Services Office and the State's Attorney General's office on August 29, 2001. The estimated date for issuance of the notice to proceed is October 31, 2001.

WMMWP is one of several Mountain Watershed Partnerships in the State of Hawaii. PRC program staff will be attending the second annual Mountain Watershed Partnership symposium in November 2001.

Watershed Restoration Action Strategies & Best Management Practices on Former Sugarcane Fields

Contractor: West Maui Soil & Water Conservation District

Project Period: 12 months

Federal Funds: \$86,000 (FY99)

Matching Funds: \$86,000

Project Purpose/Goal: To develop a WRAS and install BMP's to address dust, sediment runoff, and flooding problems of former sugarcane lands on Maui. BMPs include, but are not limited to road drainage improvements, construction of terraces and sediment basins, and establishing dust fences.

Status: Third draft of contract was sent for review and approval to the Department of Health's Administrative Services Office and the State's Attorney General's office on September 25, 2001. The estimated date for issuance of the notice to proceed is October 31, 2001.



West Maui must address former sugarcane fields now fallow.

Pelekane Bay Watershed Management Plan

Contractor: Mauna Kea Soil & Water Conservation District

Project Period: 12 months

Federal Funds: \$200,000 (FY99)

Matching Funds: \$200,000

Project Purpose/Goal: To produce a measurable increase in vegetative cover through improved grazing management, an updated watershed management plan outlining project objectives and activities for the next five years, improved health and vigor of key indicator grasses to reduce soil erosion and fire hazard, and an increase in the number of paddocks in the mauka area from one to six.

Status: The contract was sent to the Mauna Kea SWCD for execution on July 13, 2001. There is no estimated date for the notice to proceed. Conversations between Mauna Kea SWCD and DOH continue. The SWCD is concerned with their ability to meet the match requirements and with the District's liability for volunteers and contractors working on the project.



Pelekane Bay watershed

Partnership Plan and Plan of Work for South Molokai UWA

Contractor: Molokai-Lanai to Soil & Water Conservation District

Project Period: 8 months

Federal Funds: \$25,000 (FY99)

Matching Funds: \$25,000

Project Purpose/Goal: To identify and call together stakeholders of South Molokai, conduct a preliminary assessment of existing environmental data for the South Molokai watershed and associated streams, wetlands, and ocean, conduct educational and public participation efforts to cultivate stakeholders support for efforts to improve the water quality of South Molokai, and prepare for the development of a WRAS for South Molokai.

Status: Received second draft of contract on September 28, 2001 with comments from the Department of Health's Administrative Services Office and the State's Attorney General's office. Comments and concerns will be addressed and the third draft of the contract will be sent to ASO for review and approval.

After failed attempts by the PRC Program to obtain a contractor to prepare a WRAS for South Molokai, the staff was able to enlist the Molokai-Lanai Soil and Water Conservation District to perform a pre-WRAS project. The pre-WRAS project is based on natural resource planning tenets outlined in a Technical Note by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, which state that "the key to effectively carrying out a quality cost efficient planning process is to plan to plan." The pre-WRAS project provides for the development of a document to guide the efforts of the WRAS development that the PRC staff feel will, in light of the enormity of the South Molokai watershed and the social, economic, and political complexities of doing work on Molokai, facilitate and provide a greater degree of success for the WRAS development effort.



On soils denuded of vegetation, gullies, such as these, can form during one rainstorm.